

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9293

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3111

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: PEACEKEEPING

REF: STATE 169581

1. UPON HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW SOVIET MINISTER OVINNIKOV INFORMED AMB. SCHAUFLE DURING DISCUSSION SEPT. 6 THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET ATTITUDE ON PEACEKEEPING. IN NOTING THAT ISSRAELYAN NOW IN CHARGE UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OVINNIKOV CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT LITTLE CHANGE COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THAT SOURCE.

2. OVINNIKOV ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS EXPECTED REPLY TO THEIR PAPER OF JULY 1971 AND CONSIDERED THAT BALL IN OUR COURT. SCHAUFLE SAID HE WOULD PASS ON SOVIET VIEW BUT WONDERED WHETHER EXCHANGES OF PAPERS BEST WAY TO APPROACH PROBLEM. OVINNIKOV REITERATED STRONG SOVIET DESIRE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON PEACEKEEPING.

3. WHEN SCHAUFLE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET CONCEPT OF ART. 29 COMITE ACTING ON BASIS PERMANENT MEMBER CONSENSUS, OVINNIKOV AT FIRST DEMURRED SAYING THAT
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US ALWAYS ASKING QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, WHEN SCHAUFLE

POINTED OUT THAT LAST EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM WAS BASED ON SOVIET QUERIES OVINNIKOV SAID HE THOUGHT ONLY MAJOR ISSUES WOULD REQUIRE PERMANENT MEMBER CONSENSUS.

4. SCHAUFEELE ASKED IF SOVIETS PROPOSING TO DEFINE AREAS IN WHICH SUCH CONSENSUS NECESSARY SINCE PREVIOUS SOVIET STATEMENTS IN WG HAD GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT MANY IF NOT MOST QUESTIONS WOULD BE RESOLVED IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. OVINNIKOV SAID SOVIETS WILLING TRY TO MAKE DISTINCTIONS ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED SKEPTICAL OF CHANCES OF SUCCESS.

5. SCHAUFEELE THEN ASKED IF SOVIETS HAD CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY THAT COMITE MIGHT NOT ACCEPT AGREEMENT AMONG FIVE ESPECIALLY IF IT ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION OF CONTRIBUTING POWERS. OVINNIKOV SAID THAT PERMS WOULD THEN HAVE TO GO BACK TO RECONSIDER. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH A MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED FROM COMITE TO SC ITSELF OVINNIKOV SEEMED GENUINELY ADVERSE TO SUCH A STEP. HE SAID IF BOTH USSR AND US REALLY WANTED PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, WE WOULD BE ABLE WORK OUT PROBLEMS.

6. REGARDING IMPASSE IN WG, SCHAUFEELE MADE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL. OVINNIKOV SAID HE WOULD REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, NOTING SUSPICIONS AMONG SOVIET BUREAOCRATS IN MOSCOW WONDERED IF THIS MEANT US WOULD TRY TO AVOID ANY LATER DISCUSSION OF MSC. SCHAUFEELE SAID THIS NOT CASE. OVINNIKOV THEN SUGGESTED THAT REPORT STATE THAT WG WOULD NEXT ADDRESS ITSELF TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF ART. 29 COMMITTEE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO OTHER ORGANS. SCHAUFEELE SAID THIS DID NOT SOLVE PROBLEM SINCE SOVIETS THEREBY ASSURE THAT WHAT THEY WANT DISCUSS NEXT IS INCLUDED. BUT US WHICH IS READY MAKE THAT CONCESSION GETS NO ASSURED CONCESSION IN RETURN. HOWEVER, WE WOULD REFER MATTER TO WASHINGTON.

7. COMMENT: OVINNIKOV'S CLARIFICATION ON PERMANENT MEMBER CONSENSUS NEITHER DETAILED NOR CLEAR. WE SUGGEST THAT DEPT CONSIDER RESPONDING TO SOVIET REQUEST FOR REPLY TO THEIR JULY 1971 PAPER BY REPEATING THIS QUESTION AND ADDING OTHERS. IN DOING SO WE WILL NOT COMMIT OURSELVES

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AND COULD AT SAME TIME SIGNAL BY CONTENT OF QUESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT BE RETHINKING US POSITION.

8. REGARDING WG IMPASSE SUGGEST WE NOT REPLY AT THIS TIME BUT WAIT FOR SOVIET REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL.

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